

Community Athletic Fields

Co-located at Mankato Area Public Schools' Rosa Parks Elementary School
1101 Heron Drive, Mankato, Minnesota

Fact Sheet



A ballpark.

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Project benefits and highlights

Land acquired by Mankato Area Public Schools to build a new elementary school presented an opportunity to work with the city to develop and fulfill demand for youth baseball fields. Co-locating the school and community fields was cost effective. A shared parking lot allows use of the community fields during the summer when youth community baseball is in season and school is not in session. In addition to shared use, development benefits included cost savings because of coordinated infrastructure.

The city and schools worked together to develop the community athletic fields project. Twenty one acres of the 38 acres of land purchased to build a new elementary school was donated to the project. The public investment project was funded with \$1.33 million from the city of Mankato.

Mankato Area Public Schools and the cities of Mankato and North Mankato collaborated on co-locating community fields. To ensure meeting the needs of the area and since field needs vary for different sports, the coordinated effort included planning for soccer fields in North Mankato.

Fast Facts

- Six-field baseball complex
- Scoreboard: Pepsi-Cola of Mankato purchased the scoreboard and Scheels funded its installation done by M&M Signs.
- In 2010, Mankato Area Youth Baseball Association (MAYBA) began donating \$10,000 per year for five years to assist with maintenance.
- Field #3, sponsored by Taylor Corporation, North Mankato, is named "Taylor Field."
- Field #4, sponsored by I & S Group, Mankato and the Surprenant family, is named "Surprenant Field."
- Field #6, sponsored by Coughlan Companies, North Mankato, is named "Coughlan Companies Field."
- Three fields (#1, #2, #5), the complex and a concession stand remain available for sponsorship-naming rights.
- MAYBA organizes youth volunteer groups to clean-up at the community athletic fields.
- MAYBA is organizing and following through on raising sponsorships-naming rights to build a concession stand.
- Four baseball fields have flexibility to reduce or increase distance to the bases, since it differs for age groups. This allows youth of various ages to use these fields.
- An underdrain system allows higher quality turf and good draining so fields can be used sooner after rain.
- Lighting on the field makes it possible to play tournaments and games after dark.
- A future phase of the project includes a neighborhood park.

New in fall 2012

